

Simmons introduces new flood insurance proposal

WASHINGTON — With federal flood insurance for homebuyers and renters expired as of Jan. 1, Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, sponsored a bill Monday that requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency to apply the program retroactively and through Dec. 31.

FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program supplies 90 to 95 percent of all flood insurance provided in the United States.

"As we have struggled with a sagging economy, one of the encouraging signs has been a buoyant housing market," Simmons said. "This is in large part because buyers, leasers and sellers of property could count on a continued commitment by their government to be a line of defense against damages from flooding. This is no more pressing need for this safeguard than in eastern Connecticut, where our coastline and many rivers make flooding a persistent threat."

The National Flood Insurance Program was created by act of Congress in 1968 and has been reauthorized each year since.

Simmons added: "Last year, more than 30,000 Connecticut residents had emergency flood insurance policies from NFIP. Thousands more will be affected this year. We have already been hit with three times as much precipitation this year in Connecticut than last year. This problem will only get worse."